

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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USIA FOR IMV, IEU; STATE FOR EUR/SOV; CU/EE; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL

REF: USIA 22035

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED CALL FOR CHKALIKOV, ASSISTANT TO SLAVNOV, JULY 20 INDICATING THAT AVAILABLE DATES FOR FESTIVAL WERE NOVEMBER 15-21. LATE OCTOBER NOT POSSIBLE FOR GOSKINO. EMBOFF INQUIRED IF THIS SIGNIFIED GOSKINO ACCEPTANCE OF FESTIVAL TO WHICH CHKALIKOV REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE IF DATES ACCEPTABLE. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT ALTERNATE DATES, NOTING BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT DURING THIS PERIOD, CHKALIKOV SAID NOVEMBER 22-28 POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE BUT THIS LATER RETRACTED BY ANOTHER GOSKINO OFFICIAL LEAVING NOVEMBER 15-21 ONLY AVAILABLE TIME IN 1976. OTHER OFFICIAL, WHO ALSO WORKS IN SLAVNOV'S OFFICE, ASSURED EMBOFF AT JULY 21 SPASO RECEPTION THAT GOSKINO PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY ON ALL US REQUESTS FOR SEMINARS. SPECIAL SCREENINGS, ETC.

2. EMBASSY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HOLDING BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT AND SEMINARS AT SAME TIME AS FILM FESTIVAL ENVISIONED IN EARLIER CABLES AND ELABORATED UPON BELOW. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS APPEARS TO BE ONLY TIME POSSIBLE THIS YEAR. EMBASSY SOLICITS
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DEPT/AGENCY VIEWS ON TIMING.

3. EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS OF REFTEL.

(1) AT THIS PRELIMINARY STAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOSKINO, WE DO NOT SEE NEED FOR PERSONAL CONSULTATIONS BUT WILL NEED CONSTANT FLOW OF SUGGESTIONS AND ADVISE. WILL ADVISE IF PERSONAL CONSULTATION NECESSARY IN FUTURE.

(2) A) EMBASSY AWARE OF RESTRICTIONS OUTLINED BY SPIEGEL, B) GOSKINO HAS INDICATED 16MM PRINTS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, THEREFORE URGE AGENCY PLAN TO PURCHASE NEW 35MM PRINTS C) EMBASSY WOULD PLAN TO CONSULT WITH SPIEGEL AT PROPER STAGE AND SEEK HIS COOPERATION BUT WE DO NOT ENVISION ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MPAA.

(3) CONCUR THOUGHTS EXPRESSED IN PARA 3 REFTEL. CONCERNING ELABORATION IN PARAS 4-7 EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE IDEAS, ALL GOOD AND WORTHWHILE EXPLORING, SHOULD BE PURSUED BY US FILM SPECIFALISTS WHO HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED GOOD CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS. EMBASSY EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON WORKING OUT THE BASIC PROGRAM AND MANY DETAILS OF FESTIVAL WITH THE ESSENTIAL COLLABORATION OF GOSKINO. EMBASSY APPROACH TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONSIDERING ENDEMIC RIVALRIES AMONG SOVIET INSTITUTIONS, COULD AFFECT GOSKINO'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE. THE LONG PERIOD OF DELIBERATION WHICH PROCEEDED GOSKINO'S ACCEPTANCE OF OUR INITIAL PROPOSAL INDICATES THERE IS GREAT DEAL OF SENSITIVITY TO WHOLE IDEA OF HAVING WIDE SELECTION OF US FILMS SHOWING IN THE USSR EVEN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF GOSKINO.

(4) IMV SERIES ON CAPRA MIGHT WELL BE USED BY PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS WAGNER IF THEY ARE ABLE TO WORK OUT COLLATERAL PROGRAMS WITH SOVIET COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS. SINCE THIS A FILM EVENT, WE WOULD HOPE SOVIET TV COVERAGE DURING FESTIVAL WOULD BE DEVOTED TO NEWS COVERAGE OF FILM SHOWINGS, CRITIQUES OF FILMS, INTERVIEWS WITH SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS AND DISCUSSIONS OF FILMS AND SEMINAR TOPICS. WOULD LIKE TO OFFER CAPRA SERIES TO SOVIET TV AS FOLLOWUP TO FESTIVAL.

(5) EMBASSY EFFORTS TO WORK WITH VKIG HAVE MET WITH LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FROM ZHDAN AND WE WOULD APPLAUD ANY COLLATERAL EVENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH DR. WAGNER MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARRANGE DIRECTLY WITH VKIG. IDEALLY THIS WOULD INVOLVE ACTIVE VKIG PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FESTIVAL AND POSSIBLY VKIG SPONSORSHIP OF CERTAIN EVENTS. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FESTIVAL WITH ZHDAN JULY 21 SPASO EVENT. ZHDAN DISPLAYED POLITE INTEREST AND CONFIRMED HE PLANS TO ATTEND MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE.

(6) WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY COLLATERAL PROGRAM DR. WHALEY MIGHT

BE ABLE TO DEVELOP WITH HIS SOVIET CONTACTS. FYI: WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A SUBSEQUENT US FILM FESTIVAL MIGHT HAVE AS A THEME SCIENTIFIC AND SCIENCE FICTION FILMS. END FYI. EMBASSY WILL NATURALLY WISH TO BE KEPT POSTED ON PROGRESS OF WAGNER, WHALEY MEETINGS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

(7) A FILM SUCH AS "ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST" WILL LIKELY BE ALLOWED ONLY FOR HIGHLY SELECTIVE AUDIENCES WHEREAS WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CAPRA AND HIS FILMS AVAILABLE FOR MORE GENERAL AUDIENCES

(8) AGREE CAPRA AND OTHERS COULD BE EXCELLENT SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS. OUTSTANDING YOUNG FILM DIRECTORS, ACTORS AND CAMERAMEN MOST APPROPRIATE AS ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS GIVEN DESIRED CONCENTRATION ON FILMS THEMSELVES AND WHAT THEY REPRESENT IN US SOCIETY. AS STATED, WE WELCOME EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED REFTTEL TO INITIATED COLLATORAL EVENTS.

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EXTENSIVE EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY TO EXPLOIT THIS PREMIER EVENT. SUGGEST CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL AND PAO BENSON REGARDING ADVISABILITY OF HOLDING FILM FESTIVAL CONCURRENTLY WITH BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT.

5. GOSKINO REQUESTS RESPONSE ASAP.
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